THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) With a view to wipe out the arrears of replacements and renewals on the railways in a fixed time schedule, the Government has decided to set up a non-lapsable Special Railway Safety Fund of Rs. 17,000 crores.

(b) This fund is to be used for renewal of over-aged assets such as tracks, bridges, signalling gears and rolling stock and for other safety enhancement works like track circuiting, modernisation of specific safety equipment, training of staff etc.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. 65 to 70 per cent of rail accidents are attributed to human error. Some part of the Safety Fund would also be used for upgrading training facilities at Training Institutes. Better training of operating and maintenance staff is expected to reduce human error causing train accidents.

Flat Wheel Detection System

2076. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to develop a flat wheel detection system to identify faulty wheels on rolloing stock, which cause permanent damage to track and often lead to train accidents;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to meet the problem of sudden impact caused by flat wheels on rolling stock, which is the main cause of fractures on the tracks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) to (d) System of detection of flat wheels by manual observation is already in vogue. It has been intensified and is also being reviewed for further improvement. The main cause of fractures on track is not wheel flats on rolling stock.

To explore the possibility of eliminating human element in detection of wheel flats,Research, Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO)/ Lucknow with technical support of Indian Institute of Technology/Kanpur has taken up a project "Development of Wheel Flat Detection System".